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(54) Title: PURIFIED HEMATOPORPHYRIN DIMERS AND TRIMERS USEFUL IN PHOTODYNAMIC THERAPY

(57) Abstract

Pure dimer and trimer compounds of hematoporphyrin are prepared and shown to be effective agents in photodynamic therapy. The compounds of the invention are of formula (I) or (II), wherein each X is independently 1-hydroxyethyl or vinyl and wherein R is H or lower alkyl. The compounds of the invention can be conjugated to targeting substances such as immunoglobulins or to labels.

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PURIFIED HEMATOPORPHYRIN DIMERS AND TRIMERS USEFUL IN PHOTODYNAMIC THERAPY

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Technical Field

The invention relates to the treatment of tumors using the process of photodynamic therapy (PDT). In particular, it concerns compounds useful in this treatment regime which are dimers or trimers of hematoporphyrin, and dehydrated forms thereof.

Background Art

It has been known for some time that porphyrin
related compounds accumulate at higher concentrations in
tumor tissue as compared to some normal tissues, and that
irradiation of these compounds using light of the proper
wavelength results in an energized form which, upon decay,
results in cytotoxicity. It is believed that excitation
of the porphyrin or related material results in the formation of singlet oxygen which is in fact the toxic agent.

An extensive literature relating to the use of "hematoporphyrin derivative" (HPD) describes this process utilizing a preparation obtained when hematoporphyrin dichloride is treated using the procedure of Lipson, R.L., et al., <u>J National Cancer Inst</u> (1961) 26:1-8. More

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recently, it has been shown that if this hematoporphyrin derivative is treated at a suitabl pH, aggregation occurs and the active material in the mixtur can be prepared in crude form as a size segregated aggregat (see, for example, U.S. Patent 4,649,151, incorporated herein by reference). This preparation is commercially available under the trademark Photofrino II.

It is clear that the preparation marketed as the Photofrin® II composition is itself a mixture. It is 10 known that the mixture contains porphyrins joined by ether linkages (Dougherty, T.J., et al., Adv Exp Med Biol (1983) 160:3-13), and more recently, Kessel, D., et al., Photochem Photobiol (1987) 46:463-568, has shown that ester linked porphyrins are contained in this mixture as well. Scourides, P.A., et al., Cancer Res (1987) 47:3439-15 3445 have synthesized an oligomeric mixture of ether linked porphyrins starting from hematoporphyrin dimethyl esters. The mixture was active in PDT, but was as complex a mixture as the Photofrins II preparation. Dimers of hematoporphyrin joined by ester linkages have also been prepared by Pandey, R.K., et al., Cancer Res (in press) and the dimers prepared were shown to be absent from the mixture in the Photofrin II composition as well as inactive in an in vitro assay.

Thus, it is known in the art that some elements of a mixture prepared when HPD is aggregated and segregated into higher molecular weight components are active in photodynamic therapy. However, it is not settled and not known what all of these active ingredients are, nor has it been possible to prepare single compound compositions which are useful in PDT. It would clearly be advantageous to utilize a purified and defined composition in this therapeutic method rather than a complex mixture, which while effective, is not completely understood.

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Disclosure of the Invention

The invention provides defin d dimer and trimer conjugat s of hematoporphyrin systems which are active and effective in PDT. Specifically, the invention provides dimers and trimers linked through ether linkages and obtained in isolated form.

Accordingly, in one aspect, the invention is directed to a compound of the formula

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or

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wherein each X is independently CH₃CHOH- or CH₂=CH-, and wherein R is H or lower alkyl (C1-C4), said compound in purified and isolated form. The invention is also directed to pharmaceutical compositions in which one of the compounds abov is an active ingredient and to methods of conducting photodynamic therapy using the compounds and compositions of the invention.

In another aspect, the invention is directed to the compounds of formulas (1) or (2) conjugated to a ligand which is capable of binding to a specific receptor such as an antibody or cellular receptor, and to compositions containing these conjugates and methods of conducting photodynamic therapy using the conjugates and their compositions.

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Modes of Carrying Out the Invention

The invention provides a synthesis of pure compositions containing, in isolated form, the compounds of formula 1 or 2. Thus, by "isolated form" is meant that all of the porphyrin components of the composition have the same structural formula as shown in formula (1) or (2) or isomers of the structural formulas shown where the dimerization is effected through different combinations of A and B ring linkages. However, for those compounds which contain chiral centers, a mixture of stereoisomers is also included within the scope of the term "isolated form." These compositions of the invention may contain only one stereoisomer or several.

Furthermore, the compositions may contain only
one or several A/B ring linkage isomers. As shown in
formula (1), the ether linkage is between ring A of one
porphyrin and ring A of the other. Linkage may also be A-B or B-B. Similarly, as shown in formula (2), linkage is
A-A and B-A. It may also be a combination of B-A and B-B
or B-A or of B-B and B-A, or of A-A and B-B.

Th compounds of the invention are synthesized using as starting material, 2,4-diacetyldeuteroporphyrin as the dialkyl ester. This compound is first partially reduced using a suitable reducing hydride, such as sodium borohydride, to obtain the corresponding alkyl diester of 4-acetyl-2-(1-hydroxyethyl)deuteroporphyrin-IX and its 2-acetyl-4-(1-hydroxyethyl)isomer. This mixture, one isomer of which is shown as formula (A), is used in further synthesis. The synthesis of the dimer of formula (1) is shown in Reaction Scheme 1.

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Reaction Scheme 1

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As shown, after protecting the hydroxyl group using a suitable protecting agent such as beta(trimethylsilyl)-ethoxym thyl chloride, reduction with a suitable hydride, such as sodium borohydride, effects the conversion of the remaining ac tyl moiety to the corr sponding alcohol and its corresponding 2,4-isomer.

Treatment with bromine in dichloromethane at a temperature of less than 40° results in the bromo derivative (B) which is not isolated, but is condensed after evaporation of the solvent, with compound (3) in dichloromethane to give the dimer of formula (5). Removal of the silyl protecting groups yields the desired compound of formula (1).

The dimer of formula (1) can also be synthesized using the scheme shown in Reaction Scheme 2.

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Reaction Scheme 2

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In this preparation, the 4-acetyl-2-(1-hydroxy-methyldeuteroporphyrin)dialkyl ester of formula (A) and its isomer are treated in dichloromethane with methane. sulfonyl chlorid at less than -70°C under nitrog n for 1 hour, and then with lithium bromide to obtain the corresponding bromo derivative of formula (C) for condensation with the untreated porphyrin starting material of formula (A) to obtain the dimer of formula (6) which is then treated with sodium borohydride to obtain the desired dimer compound of formula (1).

Preparation of the trimer of formula (2) wherein both Xs are CH_3CHOH — is shown in Reaction Scheme 3.

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Reaction Scheme 3

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In this series of reactions, condensation of the porphyrin of formula (A) with the dibrominated form of h matoporphyrin of formula (10) results in the trimer of formula (11), which is the oxidized form of the desired compound of formula (2). Reduction of the compound of formula (11) with, for example, sodium borohydride, yields the desired trimer.

For preparation of the trimer of formula (2) wherein both Xs are vinyl, the reaction sequence is

10 similar except that compound A is replaced by the commercially available material Hvd, which is a mixture of 2-(1-hydroxyethyl)-4-vinyl and 4-(1-hydroxyethyl)-2-vinyl deuteroporphyrin dimethyl ester. The remainder of the scheme is analogous, except that the last, reduction, step is unnecessary.

Similarly, for preparation of the embodiment of formula (2) wherein one X is vinyl and the other is 1-hydroxyethyl, an equimolar mixture of the compound of formula A and Hvd is used in the first condensation step.

Reduction of the condensate is necessary to convert the acetyl substituent to 1-hydroxyethyl.

In all of the preparations above, either the compounds of the formulas shown or their A-B ring structural isomers or mixtures can be used. The formulas shown, therefore, are exemplary of all of these alternatives.

In all of the foregoing cases, also, the esterified carboxyl groups can be hydrolyzed using a 1:1 mixture of 1 N sodium hydroxide and THF to obtain the corresponding dicarboxylic acids, or partially hydrolyzed to obtain the monocarboxylic acids.

The possibility of using compositions which consist essentially of the above-defined compounds as active ingredient make possible the derivatization of the dimer or trimer contained in order to provide a specific targeting mechanism. Commonly used target-specific

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components include monoclonal antibodies and ligands which bind to a cellular receptor. The compositions can also be conveniently labeled.

The target-specific component can then be, for

example, an immunoglobulin or portion thereof or a ligand
specific for a particular receptor. The immunoglobulin
component can be any of a variety of materials. It may be
derived from polyclonal or monoclonal antibody preparations and may contain whole antibodies or immunologically
reactive fragments of these antibodies such as F(ab')₂,
Fab, or Fab' fragments. Use of such immunologically reactive fragments as substitutes for whole antibodies is
well known in the art. See, for example, Spiegelberg,
H.L., in "Immunoassays in the Clinical Laboratory" (1978)
3:1-23.

Polyclonal anti-sera are prepared in conventional ways by injecting a suitable mammal with antigen to which antibody is desired, assaying the antibody level in serum against the antigen, and preparing 20 anti-sera when the titers are high. Monoclonal antibody preparations may also be prepared conventionally such as by the method of Koehler and Milstein using peripheral blood lymphocytes or spleen cells from immunized animals and immortalizing these cells either by viral infection, 25 by fusion with myelomas, or by other conventional procedures, and screening for production of the desired antibodies by isolated colonies. Formation of the fragments from either monoclonal or polyclonal preparations is effected by conventional means as described by Spiegelberg, H.L., supra. 30

Particularly useful antibodies include the monoclonal antibody preparation CAMAL1 which can be prepared as described by Malcolm, A., et al., Ex Hematol (1984) 12:539-547; polyclonal or monoclonal preparations of anti-Ml antibody as described by Mew, D., et al., J Immunol (1983) 130:1473-1477 (supra) and B16G antibody

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which is prepared as described by Maier, T., t al., <u>J</u>
<u>Immunol</u> (1983) <u>131</u>:1843; Steele, J.K., et al., <u>Cell</u>
<u>Immunol</u> (1984) <u>90</u>:303.

Th foregoing list is exemplary and certainly

not limiting; once the target tissue is known, antibody
specific for this tissue may be prepared by conventional
means. Therefore the invention is applicable to effecting
toxicity against any desired target.

The ligand specific for receptor, refers to a

10 moiety which binds a receptor at cell surfaces, and thus
contains contours and charge patterns which are complementary to those of the receptor. It is well
understood that a wide variety of cell types have specific
receptors designed to bind hormones, growth factors, or

15 neurotransmitters. However, while these embodiments of
ligands specific for receptor are known and understood,
the phrase "ligand specific for receptor", as used herein,
refers to any substance, natural or synthetic, which binds
specifically to a receptor.

Examples of such ligands include the steroid hormones, such as progesterone, estrogens, androgens, and the adrenal cortical hormones; growth factors, such as epidermal growth factor, nerve growth factor, fibroblast growth factor, and so forth; other protein hormones, such as human growth hormone, parathyroid hormone, and so forth; and neurotransmitters, such as acetylcholine, serotonin, and dopamine. Any analog of these substances which succeeds in binding to the receptor is also included.

The conjugation of the target-cell-specific component to the dimers or timers can be effected by any convenient means. For proteins, such as Ig and certain receptor ligands, a direct covalent bond between these moieties may be effected, for example, using a dehydrating agent such as a carbodimide. A particularly preferred method of covalently binding the dimers or trimers to the

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immunoglobulin moiety is treatment with 1-ethyl-3-(3-dim thylamino propyl) carbodiimide (EDCI) in the presence of a reaction medium consisting essentially of dimethyl sulfoxide (DMSO).

Of course, other dehydrating agents such as dicyclohexylcarbodiimide or diethylcarbodiimide could also be used as well as conventional aqueous and partially aqueous media.

Nonprotein receptor ligands can be conjugated to the dimers and trimers according to their relevant functional groups by means known in the art.

The active moieties of the conjugate may also be conjugated through linker compounds which are bifunctional, and are capable of covalently binding each of the two active components. A large variety of these linkers is commercially available, and a typical list would include those found, for example, in the catalog of the Pierce Chemical Co. These linkers are either homo- or heterobifunctional moieties and include functionalities capable of forming disulfides, amides, hydrazones, and a wide variety of other linkages.

Other linkers include polymers such as polyamines, polyethers, polyamine alcohols, derivatized to the components by means of ketones, acids, aldehydes, isocyanates, or a variety of other groups.

The techniques employed in conjugating the active moieties of the conjugate to the target-specific component include any standard means and the method for conjugation does not form part of the invention.

Therefore, any effective technique known in the art to produce such conjugates falls within the scope of the invention, and the linker moiety is accordingly broadly defined only as being either a covalent bond or any linker moiety available in the art or derivable therefrom using

35 standard techniques.

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The dimer or trimer compounds per se or the conjugates may be furth r derivatized to a compound or ion which labels the drug. A wide variety of labeling moieties can be used, including radioisotopes and fluorescent labels. Radioisotope labeling is preferred, as it can be readily detected in vivo.

The compounds which are alone or are conjugates of dimer or trimer with a specific binding substance can be labeled with radioisotopes by coordination of a suitable radioactive cation in the porphyrin system. Useful cations include technetium and indium. In the conjugates, the specific binding substances can also be linked to label.

15 Administration and Use

The defined dimer and trimer compositions and their conjugates with target-specific substances of the invention are useful, in general, in the manner known in the art for hematoporphyrin derivative and for Photofrins 20 II compositions. These compositions are useful in sensitizing neoplastic cells or other abnormal tissue to destruction by irradiation using visible light--upon . photoactivation, the compositions have no direct effect, nor are they entered into any biological event; however 25 the energy of photoactivation is believed to be transferred to endogenous oxygen to convert it to singlet oxygen. This singlet oxygen is thought to be responsible for the cytotoxic effect. In addition, the photoactivated forms of porphyrin fluorescence which fluoresce can aid in localizing the tumor. Thus, the dimer and trimer compounds of the invention are not consumed or altered in exerting their biological effects.

Typical indications, known in the art, include destruction of tumor tissue in solid tumors, dissolution of plaques in blood vessels (see, e.g., U.S. patent 4,512,762); treatment of topical conditions such as acne,

athletes foot, warts, papilloma, and psoriasis and treatment of biological products (such as blood for transfusion) for infectious agents, since the presence of a membrane in such agents promot s the accumulation of the drug.

The compositions are formulated into pharmaceutical compositions for administration to the subject or applied to an <u>in vitro</u> target using techniques known in the art generally. A summary of such pharmaceutical compositions may be found, for example, in <u>Remington's Pharmaceutical Sciences</u>, Mack Publishing Co., Easton, Pennsylvania, latest edition. The compositions labeled or unlabeled, can be administered systemically, in particular by injection, or can be used topically.

Injection may be intravenous, subcutaneous, intramuscular, or, even intraperitoneal. Injectables can be prepared in conventional forms, either as liquid solutions or suspensions, solid form suitable for solution or suspension in liquid prior to injection, or as emulsions. Suitable excipients are, for example, water, saline, dextrose, glycerol and the like. Of course, these compositions may also contain minor amounts of nontoxic, auxiliary substances such as wetting or emulsifying agents, pH buffering agents and so forth.

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25 Systemic administration can also be implemented through implantation of a slow release or sustained release system, by suppository, or, if properly formulated, orally. Formulations for these modes of administration are well known in the art, and a summary of such methods may be found, for example, in Remington's Pharmaceutical Sciences (supra).

If the treatment is to be localized, such as for the treatment of superficial tumors or skin disorders, the compositions may be topically administered using standard topical compositions involving lotions, suspensions, or pastes.

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The quantity of dimer or trimer to be administered depends on the choice of active ingredient, the condition to be treated, the mode of administration, the individual subject, and the judgment of the 5 practitioner. Depending on the specificity of the preparation, smaller or larger doses may be needed. compositions which are highly specific to target tissue, such as those which comprise conjugates of the dimer or trimer with a highly specific monoclonal immunoglobulin preparation or specific receptor ligand, dosages in the range of 0.05-1 mg/kg are suggested. For compositions which are less specific to the target tissue, larger doses, up to 1-10 mg/kg may be needed. The foregoing ranges are merely suggestive, as the number of variables 15 in regard to an individual treatment regime is large and considerable excursions from these recommended values are expected.

Examples

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The following examples are intended to illustrate the invention but not to limit its scope.

Example 1 Preparation of the Dimer

The method to prepare the dimer is generally that shown in Reaction Scheme 1. In this example, the dimethyl ester was used.

Thus, 4-acetyl-2-(1-hydroxyethyl)deuteroporphyrin IX dimethyl ester (A) and its 2-acetyl-4-(1hydroxyethyl)isomer were prepared in 75% yield by partial
reduction of 2,4-diacetyldeuterophorphyrin (Smith, K.M.,
et al., <u>J Am Chem Soc</u> (1983) 105:6638-6646) with sodium
borohydride. The mixture was used as such for the entire
synthesis of dimer (1) and the trimer (2). The hydroxyl
group was then protected by treatment with beta(trimethylsilyl)-ethoxymethyl chloride (Lipshutz, B.H., et al.,

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T trah dron Lett (1980) 21:3343-3346) and the resulting protected porphryin was isolated in 90% yield. Upon treatment with sodium borohydride, the reduced acetylated porphyrin was obtained in almost quantitative yield, and converted into the bromo derivative (B) by treatment with bromine in dichloromethane (< -40°C under an inert atmosphere). The bromo derivative was not isolated and after evaporation of the solvent it was condensed with porphyrin (3) in dichloromethane, to give the desired porphyrin dimer (5) in 32% yield, along with some protoporphyrin IX dimethyl ester. Problems were encountered in cleavage of the silyl groups using tetra-n-butyl ammonium fluoride at room temperature, and at higher temperatures only a small yield of (1) was obtained, along with large amounts of decomposition products.

Example 2

Alternate Preparation of Dimer

In another approach, shown in Reaction Scheme 2, 20 porphyrin (A), as a mixture of isomers, in dichloromethane was treated with methanesulfonyl chloride (< -70°C under nitrogen) for 1 hr. The mesylate so obtained was treated with lithium bromide (Corey, E.J., et al., J Am Chem Soc (1980) 102:1742-1744) under similar conditions used to 25 synthesize the bromo derivative (C). The bromo derivative was not isolated, but was immediately condensed with porphryin (A) to produce the dimer (6) in 28% yield. [m/e 1232, 50%; 607, 10%; 307, 100%; ¹H NMR, -CH(Me)O-, m, 6.6-6.9 ppm]. Treatment of (6) with sodium borohydride af-30 forded the desired dimer (1) in quantitative yield as the tetramethyl ester [m/e 1236, 100%; ¹H NMR, -CH(Me)O-, m, 6.5-6.8 ppm]. The methyl esters were then hydrolyzed to the corresponding carboxylic acids (m/e 1180) by treatment with 1N sodium hydroxide in tetrahydrofuran.

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Example 3

Preparation of Trimer Wherein X is Hydroxyethyl

Along similar lines, diacetyl trimer (11) was synthesized in 31% yield by condensation of porphyrin (A)

5 with (10) [m/e 1840, 100%; ¹H NMR, -CH(Me)O-, m, 6.5-6.9 ppm], as shown in Reaction Scheme 3. Treatment of this trimer with sodium borohydride afforded the Hp trimer as the hexamethyl ester (2) in 98% yield, [m/e 1184, 100%; ¹H NMR, -CH(Me)O-, m, 6.6-7.0 ppm], which, upon base hydrolysis, afforded the corresponding carboxylic acid, [m/e, 1760].

Example 4

Synthesis of Trimer Wherein X is Vinyl

15 Protoporphyrin-9-dimethylester (15 mg) was treated with 30% HBr/acetic acid (2 ml) for 2 hr. The 2,4-(1-bromoethyl) derivative was dried under high vacuum and then condensed with Hvd (35 mg) dissolved in dry dichloromethane (10 mg) with stirring for 10 min at room temperature under a nitrogen atmosphere. The reaction mixture was poured into water and purified. The resulting compound of formula (2) wherein both Xs are vinyl was isolated in 32.6% (15 mg) yield along with Hp and Hvd as their methyl esters. MS: m/e 1809 (M+1, 20%) 1873 (Cu complex, M+2, 25%), 591 (100%). The results of HPLC showed three peaks due to the various positional derivatives.

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Example 5 Biological Testing

Biological testing was based on the standard system of subcutaneously implanted SMT-F tumor in DBA/2 mice. Tumors of 4.5-5.5 mm were exposed to 288 J/cm² of light from a filtered arc lamp (600-700 mm), 20-24 hr post

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i.p. injection of the test substance. The results of this test are shown in Tabl 1 below.

Table 1
Tumor Response

			Respo	nse
	Compound	Dose mg/kg	1-2 days	7 days
	Photofring II composition	4.2	10/10	5/10
10	Formula (1)	4.2	0/10	0/10
		10.0	1/10	0/10
		5.0*	7/10	2/10
	Formula (2) X=X = CH ₃ CHOH	4.2	5/10	3/10
	3	5.0	10/10	8/10
15	Formula (2) $X=X = CH_2=CH_2=$	6.0	9/9	9/9

^{*}Treated after 3 hr.

As shown in Table 1, the hematoporphyrin dimer of formula (1) is only marginally active, while both trimer mixtures of positional isomers are as effect as the Photofrin® II composition.

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Claims

1. A compound of the formula

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or

(1)

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wherein each X is independently CH_3CHOH - or CH_2 =CH- and wher in R is H or lower alkyl, in isolated form.

- The compound of claim 1 which is of formula
 (2) wherein each X is vinyl.
 - 3. The compound of claim 1 which is of formula (2) wherein one X is vinyl and the other X is CH_3CHOH_- .
- 4. A pharmaceutical composition which consists essentially of the compound of formula 1 as active ingredient along with a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.
- 5. A method to destroy or impair the functioning of target biological substrate which comprises
 contacting said target with an effective amount of the
 compound of claim 1 or a pharmaceutical composition
 thereof and irradiating said target with light absorbed by
 said compound.
 - 6. A conjugate which consists essentially of the compound of claim 1 covalently bound to a target-specific component.

- . 7. The conjugate of claim 6 wherein the component is an immunoglobulin or a receptor ligand.
- 8. A pharmaceutical composition useful for 30 labeling malignant tissue which comprises the compound of claim 1 associated with label.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application NoPCT/US89/02934

I. CLASSIFICATIO	N OF SUBJECT MATTER (I Amount				
		classification symbols apply, indicate all) 6			
		Hattonal Classification and IPC			
U.S.CI.: 128/39	5; 514/185; 530/402; 540/145				
II. FIELDS SEARCE	IEO				
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			Relevant to Claim No. 17		
1 13	4,649.151 (DOUGHER 987. See the abstra nd 10.	RTY ET AL) 10 March act and columns 9	1-8		
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e C	Cancer Research. Vol. 47 1987, Scourides et al., "Nature of Tumor-Localizing Components of Hematoporphyrin Derivative", pages 3439-3445. See page 3440, column 1.				
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earlier document be filling date L" document which me which is cited to e citation or other ap of document referring other means "document published later than the priori	the general state of the art which is not particular relevance at published on or after the international ay throw doubts on priority claim(s) or stabilish the publication date of another ecial reason (as specified) to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or prior to the international filing date but	"T" later document published after the or priority date and not in conflict cited to understand the principle of invention. "X" document of particular relevance: cannot be considered novel or considered novel or considered to involve an inventive step. "Y" document of particular relevance: cannot be considered to involve an document is combined with one or ments, such combination being obvin the art. "4" document member of the same pate	with the application but per theory underlying the the claimed invention ennot be considered to the claimed invention inventive step when the more other such docu- ious to a person skilled		
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